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Attorney Docket No.01638/RPM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): D. NAS et al

Serial No.

: Based on

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arbara Illani Barbara Villani

No. 06-1378.

In the event that this Paper is late filed. and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto. authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

SIR:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1: Please insert the following as the first sentence:

-- This application is a U.S. National Phase Application under 35 USC 371 of International Application PCT/EP00/03096 (published in English) filed April 7, 2000.--

A marked-up copy of page 1 is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Michal, No. 35,614

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